

CERP AMENDMENT – ALTERNATIVES TO AGRICULTURAL BURNING

EASTERN COACHELLA VALLEY (ECV) CSC MEETING #16
APRIL 16TH, 2021



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OVERVIEW – ALTERNATIVES TO AGRICULTURAL BURNING



- CSC comments on Agriculture Burning
- State Law on Agricultural Burning Phase Out
- Recap of South Coast AQMD's Open Burn Program
- Alternatives to Agricultural Burning
- CERP Actions
- CSC Discussion

SUMMARY OF ECV CERP COMMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL BURNING

Summary of ECV CERP Comments

- Reduce the amount of material burned
- Phase out agricultural burning
- Enforce Rule 444 – Open Burning
- Identify feasible alternatives to open burning



CSC COMMENT – REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL BURNED

Open Burn Program Comparison

	South Coast AQMD	Imperial County APCD
Daily burn limit	41 acres per day	1,600 acres per day
Acres permitted per year	500 – 1,500 acres per year	10,000 – 60,000 acres per year

CSC COMMENT – PHASE OUT OPEN BURNING

- State law prohibits air districts and CARB from banning agricultural burning
- California Code of Regulations §41850*:

“It is the intent of the Legislature, by the enactment of this article, **that agricultural burning be reasonably regulated and not be prohibited...**”

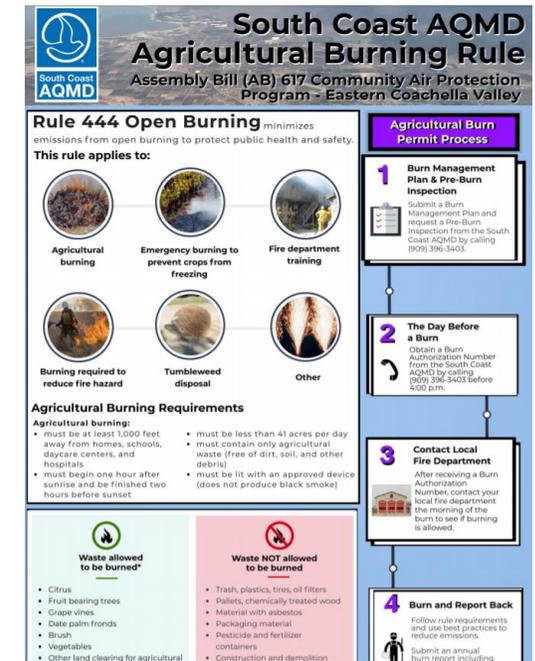
* California Code of Regulations §41850 is available at:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&division=26.&title=&part=4.&chapter=3.&article=3

CSC COMMENT – ENFORCE RULE 444 (OPEN BURNING)

• Rule 444 – Key Requirements

- Must be at least 1,000 feet from nearest school, home, community center, and/or day care center
- Burn piles must be dry and lit with an approved ignition device
- Burning occurs between limited hours
- Requires a pre-burn inspection and burn authorization number for every permitted burn
- Additional information available at <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/eastern-coachella-valley/agricultural-burning.pdf?sfvrsn=14>



South Coast AQMD Agricultural Burning Rule
Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Community Air Protection Program - Eastern Coachella Valley

Rule 444 Open Burning minimizes emissions from open burning to protect public health and safety.
This rule applies to:

- Agricultural burning
- Emergency burning to prevent crops from freezing
- Fire department training
- Burning required to reduce fire hazard
- Tumbleweed disposal
- Other

Agricultural Burning Requirements

Agricultural burning:

- must be at least 1,000 feet away from homes, schools, daycare centers, and hospitals
- must begin one hour after sunrise and be finished two hours before sunset
- must be less than 41 acres per day
- must contain only agricultural waste (free of dirt, soil, and other debris)
- must be lit with an approved device (does not produce black smoke)

Waste allowed to be burned*

- Citrus
- Fruit bearing trees
- Grape vines
- Date palm fronds
- Brush
- Vegetables
- Other land clearing for agricultural

Waste NOT allowed to be burned

- Trash, plastics, tires, oil filters
- Pallets, chemically treated wood
- Material with asbestos
- Packaging material
- Pesticide and fertilizer containers
- Construction and demolition

Agricultural Burn Permit Process

- 1 Burn Management Plan & Pre-Burn Inspection**
Submit a Burn Management Plan and request a Pre-Burn Inspection from the South Coast AQMD by calling (909) 396-3403.
- 2 The Day Before a Burn**
Obtain a Burn Authorization Number from the South Coast AQMD by calling (909) 396-3403 Before 4:00 p.m.
- 3 Contact Local Fire Department**
After receiving a Burn Authorization Number, contact your local fire department the morning of the burn to see if burning is allowed.
- 4 Burn and Report Back**
Follow rule requirements and use best practices to reduce emissions.
Submit an annual burn report including

• Staff presented on enforcement of Rule 444 in August 2020

<http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/eastern-coachella-valley/burn-program-presentation.pdf?sfvrsn=8>

CSC COMMENT – IDENTIFY FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO AGRICULTURAL BURNING

Common Types of Permitted Burning in ECV:

- Removing native brush and trees
- Trimming or removing:
 - grapevines
 - date palm fronds
 - citrus trees



Alternatives to Agricultural Burning:

Grind and use onsite
(i.e., soil incorporation, mulch)

Grind and haul off-site
(i.e., composting site, biomass facility)

Dispose of material in local landfill



CERP ACTIONS TO ADDRESS AGRICULTURAL BURNING

GOALS

ACTIONS

Improve Monitoring Network

- Establish an air quality sensor network to gain an understanding of and improve public information on PM2.5
- Identify areas where burning occurs to understand the potential impact on nearby communities and information to address open burning

Reduce Emissions from Open Burning

- Develop a feasible list of available technologies, best practices, alternatives, and new requirements
- Enhance enforcement efforts with additional inspections and follow-up investigations
- Collaborate to identify opportunities to reduce open burning and focused enforcement
- Identify funding to implement emission reduction projects (e.g., chippers)
- Conduct outreach and provide information on best burn practices/methods, open burning rules and regulations, and reporting illegal burning

Reduce Exposure from Open Burning

- Collaborate to develop and distribute informational materials relating to open burning, fire safety, and air pollution
- Develop an online system to inform the community when South Coast AQMD permitted burning is expected to occur
- Identify funding to implement exposure reduction projects (e.g., air filtration systems)

DISCUSSION



- CSC comments or questions?